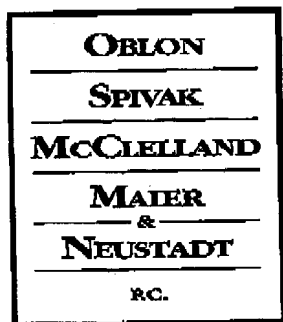


AUG. 3. 2004 11:59AM

6th FLR. MECH. & ELEC.

NO. 161 P. 1



ATTORNEYS AT LAW

1940 DUKE STREET
ALEXANDRIA, VIRGINIA 22314
USA

(703) 413-3000
(703) 413-2220 FACSIMILE

OBLONPAT@OBLON.COM

PATENT, TRADEMARK AND COPYRIGHT LAW
AND RELATED FEDERAL AND ITC LITIGATION

WWW.OBLON.COM

FACSIMILE

PLEASE CALL US AT (703) 413-3000 IF THE MESSAGE YOU RECEIVE IS INCOMPLETE OR NOT LEGIBLE

TO	NAME	Dale Olson	DATE	8/3/04
	COMPANY/FIRM	USPTO	FAX #	703-746-4641
	NUMBER OF PAGES INCLUDING COVER:	2	CONFIRM FAX:	<input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO
FROM	NAME	Philip J. Hoffmann	OUR REFERENCE	218125US2
	DIRECT PHONE #	703-412-3528	YOUR REFERENCE	10/044,956

MESSAGE

Please find enclosed page 4 of the originally filed specification. Please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any questions or concerns.

Unless otherwise indicated or obvious from the nature of the transmittal, the information contained in this facsimile message is attorney privileged and confidential information intended for the use of the individual or entity named above. If the reader of this message is not the intended recipient or the employee or agent responsible to deliver it to the intended recipient, you are hereby notified that any dissemination, distribution or copying of this communication is strictly prohibited. If you have received this communication in error or are not sure whether it is privileged, please immediately notify us by telephone and return the original message to us at the above address via the U.S. Postal Service at our Expense. Thank You.

- 4 -

depth, while at the same time detecting charged particles emitted from a peel starting point or a breakage starting point; specifying a peel occurring time and a fragility breaking time when charged particles are increased; measuring a peel strength and/or a fragility breaking strength.

In the above-described method, the test object may be a fragile film itself and fragile thin film covering the substrate. Further, the sample setting surface on the sample mounting base is changeable between a horizontal position and an inclined position, and the test object may be positioned horizontally while the indenter may be vertically pressed into the surface of the test object. Moreover, the test object may be arranged to form a tilt angle with the pressing direction of the indenter, so that the indenter may be pressed in a direction inclined with respect to the surface of the test object. In addition, when charged particles are collected by the charged particle collecting element, an electric potential having a polarity opposite to that of the charged particles (to be collected) is applied to the charged particle collecting element.

Furthermore, the present invention also provides a material strength measuring and evaluating apparatus for use in carrying out the aforementioned method. Such an apparatus comprises a sample mounting base for mounting a test object; an indenter to be pressed into the test object; a charged particle